



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Federal Disaster Loans for
Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U. S. Small Business Administration
P. O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853

Disaster Area 4 Office
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Press Release

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small businesses in 40 counties are eligible to apply for low interest disaster loans to offset economic losses because of reduced revenue to farmers and ranchers caused by excessive rain and wheat stripe rust in ten California Counties announced Alfred E. Judd, Disaster Area Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Small businesses in the following ten primary and 30 adjacent counties may apply for economic losses that are attributable to the following incident dates in those primary counties:

Madera (*Mariposa, Merced, Mono and Tuolumne*) - from January 1 through May 31, 2003;

Yuba (*Butte, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra and Sutter*) - from March 14 through May 9, 2003;

Sacramento (*Contra Costa, El Dorado and Yolo*) - from April 1 through May 8, 2003;

Contra Costa (*Solano*) - from April 1 through May 10, 2003;

Alameda and San Joaquin (*Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Sacramento, Santa Clara and Stanislaus*) - from April 1 through May 15, 2003;

Fresno, Kern and Tulare (*Inyo, Kings, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura*) - from April 1 through May 31, 2003;

Glenn (*Butte, Colusa, Lake, Mendocino and Tehama*) - from April 12 through May 23, 2003.

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses, which could have been met had the disasters not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disasters only, and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 2.953%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Ann M. Veneman declared these disasters at the request of Dallas Jones, Office of Emergency Services Director, on behalf of former California Governor Gray Davis.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

The deadline to apply is **June 23, 2004**.

Information and application forms may be obtained by writing to **SBA at P.O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853-4795** or by calling **(800) 488-5323**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 566-7388.

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